

S. 1462.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 10, 1878.

Mr. LAMAR (by request) asked and, by unanimous consent, obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Select Committee to investigate and report the best means of preventing the Introduction and Spread of Epidemic Diseases.

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A BILL

WITHDRAWN  
from  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH  
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To establish a Department of Public Health.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That there shall be established at the seat of Government of  
4 the United States a Department of Health, the general design  
5 and duties of which shall be to acquire and diffuse among the  
6 people of the United States useful information on subjects  
7 connected with the public health; to direct the establishment  
8 and management of efficient sanitary and quarantine systems  
9 and regulations throughout the several States and Territories  
10 of the United States; to supervise the Marine Hospital Ser-  
11 vice; and to organize and direct a corps of sanitary engineers  
12 competent to superintend all public works so far as their con-  
13 struction may affect the public health.

1 SEC. 2. That there shall be appointed by the President,



2 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Director-  
3 General of Health, who shall be the chief executive officer of  
4 the Department of Health, and who shall receive for his com-  
5 pensation a salary of seven thousand five hundred dollars per  
6 annum, and the Director-General of Health may for cause be  
7 suspended by the President from the discharge of official duties,  
8 or removed from office upon hearing before the Chief Justice  
[ 9 of the United States.

1       SEC. 3. That it shall be the duty of the Director-General  
2 of Health to perform all of the duties and exercise all of the  
3 powers now devolving upon the Supervising Surgeon-General  
4 of the Marine Hospital Service, both in regard to the direc-  
5 tion and execution of the laws and regulations governing the  
6 Marine Hospital Service, and also in supervising the organi-  
7 zation and management of the quarantines of the United  
8 States as provided by the national quarantine act, approved  
9 April twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, and  
10 to this end the office of the Supervising Surgeon-General of  
11 the Marine Hospital Service is hereby abolished, and all of  
12 the duties and powers of that office, together with all of the  
13 records, papers, and other matters pertaining to the Marine  
14 Hospital Service, are hereby transferred to and shall become  
15 a part of the Department of Health.

1       SEC. 4. That it shall be the duty of the Director-General  
2 of Health to make and enforce all quarantine and other regu-

lations for the prevention of cholera, yellow fever, and other epidemic diseases in the United States; and whenever cholera or yellow fever appears in any locality, and information thereof is brought to the knowledge of said officer, he shall prepare and carry into effect such rules and regulations as in his judgment will, with the least inconvenience to commerce and travel, prevent the spread of the disease.

He shall select suitable localities for establishing quarantine stations, and may erect necessary temporary buildings for the disinfection of passengers, baggage, cargoes, and other matters believed to convey the contagious principle of cholera, yellow fever, small-pox, and other epidemic diseases, and may enforce such transshipment of passengers, baggage, and cargoes as he may deem necessary, and shall assign to the charge of each station a competent medical officer and necessary assistants.

SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of the Director-General of Health to prepare suitable tables for the taking of each census, the tables to embody such facts relating to births, deaths, marriages, the prevalence of disease, and such other data as will furnish a basis for securing a complete system of registration of vital statistics for the United States.

SEC. 6. That the Director-General of Health shall procure information relating to the climatic, meteorological, geological, and other conditions affecting the public health,



4 and shall furnish, on application, all information in his power  
5 as to the healthfulness of any given locality, and its prevailing  
6 diseases.

1 SEC. 7. That the Director-General of Health shall have  
2 power to employ persons of proper scientific knowledge and  
3 skill to make special investigations on subjects connected  
4 with the public health, and may award to them such compen-  
5 sation as he deems reasonable and just.

1 SEC. 8. That it shall be the duty of the Director-Gen-  
2 eral of Health to make annually a general report, in writing,  
3 of his acts, to the President, for transmission to Congress, in  
4 which he may recommend the publication of papers forming  
5 part of or accompanying his report, and shall make special  
6 reports on particular subjects, whenever required to do so by  
7 the President or either House of Congress, or whenever he  
8 thinks the public welfare demands it, and shall direct and  
9 superintend the expenditure of all moneys appropriated by  
10 Congress for the support of said department, and shall render  
11 accurate accounts thereof.

1 SEC. 9. That there shall be appointed for duty in said  
2 department whatever additional officers are required, includ-  
3 ing a chief clerk, chemist, engineers, experts, and so forth,  
4 whose compensation shall not exceed that authorized for simi-  
5 lar officers in other departments.

1 SEC. 10. That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with  
2 this act be, and the same are hereby repealed.



45TH CONGRESS, }  
3D Session. } **S. 1462.**

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1868—DECEMBER 10.—Read twice and referred to the Select  
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